

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10, 12-16 and 29-40 were pending of which Claims 1, 6-8, 13-16, 29-31 and 36-40 were rejected. Claims 1-10, 12-16 and 29-40 were objected to.

Claims 2-10, 12-16 and 32-40 have been amended, and Claims 1 and 29-31 have been canceled.

The specification has been amended to update the references as requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner indicated that Claims 4, 5, 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection and Claims 2, 3, 12 and 32-35 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection and to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been canceled, and the limitations of Claim 1 have been incorporated into each of Claims 2 and 3. Claims 6-8 and 12-16 have been amended to depend from Claim 2, thereby rendering these claims allowable.


Claim 4, 9 and 10 have been amended to overcome the objection. Claim 5 depends from Claim 4.

Claims 29-31 have been canceled and the limitations of Claim 29 have been incorporated into each of Claims 23-35, thereby rendering these claims allowable. The dependency of Claims 36-38 and 40 has been changed to Claim 35. Claim 39 depends from Claim 38.

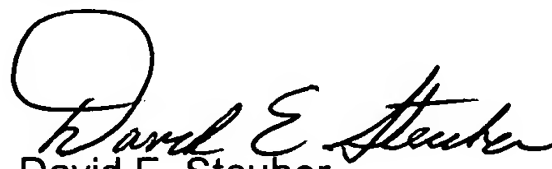
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 2-10, 12-16 and 32-40. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 982-8200, ext. 1.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "FIRST CLASS"

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the below date.

 10/21/2004
Attorney for Applicant(s) Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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